

REMARKS

Applicants' invention as presently claimed provides both of the flexible conductive wires and the metallic plate member as connected to the counterpart connector together when the fitting portion is connected with the counterpart connector.

As to the amended claim 1, please note first that the insulator (8) cooperates with the end portions (31a) of the flexible conductive wires (31) and with the contact portion (61) of the flexible reinforcing member (6) to make the fitting portion (82) for being connected with the counterpart connector (11). The end portions (31a) and the contact portion (61) are brought into contact with the counterpart connector (11) when the fitting portion (82) is connected with the counterpart connector (11).

The flexible reinforcing metallic plate member (6) according to claim 1, as amended, has a contact portion (61) that is connected to a counterpart connector (11) together with flexible conductive wires (31). The flexible connector includes an insulator (8) that makes a fitting portion (82) in cooperation with the contact portion and end portions (31a) of the flexible conductive wires. The fitting portion is thus connected with the counterpart connector. When the fitting portion is connected with the counterpart connector, the end portions and the contact portion are brought into contact with contacts of the counterpart connector. This means that the flexible conductive wires and the metallic plate member are connected to the counterpart connector together. Accordingly, it is possible to use the flexible conductive wires as signal contacts and to use the metallic plate member as a ground contact.

In Kassabgi (Figures 3-4) the assertion that "The insulator cooperates with end portions, e.g., of the wires, and a contact portion of the flexible reinforcing member to form a fitting

portion" is erroneous. The flexible reinforcing member does not have a contact portion corresponding to the above-mentioned contact portion in claim 1 of Applicants' invention. More particularly, although a flat cable B is provided with a metallic grid 11 in addition to conductors 8, the metallic grid is not connected to contact pins 14 while the conductors are connected to the contact pins. So the metallic grid is not connected to a counterpart connector together with the conductors and therefore cannot be used as a ground contact. Moreover, the metallic grid is fundamentally different from the above-mentioned metallic plate member.

For the foregoing reasons, it is thought that the application is now in condition for allowance. Claim 1, as amended, recites over the prior art and dependent claims 2-4 and 6-12 are also believed patentable in view of the foregoing. If the Examiner disagrees, he is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney before issuing a new Office Action.

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 24 March 2003

MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLC  
401 North Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Telephone 312.222.6636  
Fax 312.222.0818

Perry J. Hoffman  
Perry J. Hoffman, Reg. 37,150

S:\CLIENT\200380\0290\0205974.1

FAX RECEIVED

MAR 24 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Atty Dkt No. 200380-0290  
U.S. Serial No. 09/705,247

6